

SCS SB 855 -- HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

SPONSOR: Pearce

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Social Services by a vote of 7 to 0.

The Wartime Veteran's Survivor Grant program sunset in 2014. This bill reauthorizes the program, which provides higher education financial aid to the spouses and children of wartime veterans. The bill sunset on August 28, 2020, unless reauthorized by the General Assembly.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill continues the program that sunsets in 2014. The extension will allow more beneficiaries of the program. It is a great program for military families and is limited to a maximum of 25 beneficiaries, however the maximum has never been reached. There are currently 15 applications for the program. The emergency clause is to ensure individuals who want to apply for the 2016-17 school year are able to do so.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Pearce; Department of Higher Education; and Wendy Doyle, Womens Foundation.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.